

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 5. Accordingly, claim 5 has been canceled. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Additionally, all of the remaining claims have been amended to eliminate the numeric references. Numeric references are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, the elimination of numeric references is not a narrowing amendment and is not an amendment entered for purposes of patentability.

The Examiner objected to claim 1 in view of a missing word.

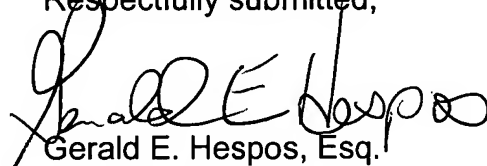
Claim 1 has been amended to provide the missing word.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,389,006 to Noschese. However, the Examiner identified claims 5-7 as being directed to patentable subject matter. The Examiner concluded that these claims would be allowed if amended or written into independent form.

Allowable claim 5 had depended directly from claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 5. As a result, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed as well.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066

Customer No. 001218

CASELLA & HESPOS LLP

274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703

New York, NY 10016

Tel. (212) 725-2450

Fax (212) 725-2452

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